

# FOR A GREATER NATION AND A GREATER SOUTH

With That End In View, The Southern Commercial Congress Is Carrying Out Ambitious Plans For the Coming Year.

Plans of the Southern Commercial Congress for its fifth great annual convention, to be held in Mobile, Ala., coincident with the actual opening of the Panama Canal in 1913, are now under way. Officials of the congress intend to make the Mobile convention the greatest annual meeting of the organization ever held. Probably more than 20,000 representative business men of the sixteen states comprised in the territory of the Southern Commercial Congress will attend the convention, and many of them will take the opportunity of visiting the canal in special steamers from Mobile.

The Mobile convention will, in a measure, show the great success of the vast plans launched by the Congress four years ago, when it was first organized in Washington, D. C. The story of the Southern Commercial Congress, and how it has grown in a brief four years from a very small beginning, to be one of the greatest commercial organizations in the United States is an interesting one.

The Southern Commercial Congress is no more commercial than it is industrial; no more industrial than agricultural; no more agricultural than educational. It is all of these and more too; for it is the name of the movement intended to weld into one irresistible confidence all the scattered efforts that are being made throughout all the South to utilize resources, improve conditions and fittingly announce the advantages of the South to the world.

## What The Congress Is.

The Southern Commercial Congress is not in business, and yet it is a promoter of business. It is not interested in any educational institution, yet it promotes education. It has not a square foot of land to sell, yet it is creating a demand for land. It does not publish a periodical, yet its influence through the printed page has grown by leaps and bounds. It is not a national advertiser, yet its work will prompt a widespread and compelling outburst of Southern municipal and real estate advertising. It is not the name of an annual meeting, yet it holds annual meetings as part of its work.

The Southern Commercial Congress is a movement that expresses complete dissatisfaction with things as they are, unless those things are the best that can be. It suggests to others the changes, uses, and activities that should be in the South, but does not dissipate its own force in a sea of detail.

The movement was organized in Washington in December, 1908, with the full dignity of its name and its purpose, and yet when it started there was not an effective union of constructive forces anywhere in the South to sustain it; nor did it wait for the pledges of men whose interests would be benefited through the success of the effort.

As a movement it sprang full grown from the minds of a group of commercial secretaries who met in Chattanooga, Tenn., in August, 1908, and decided that there were certain conditions existing in the South and outside of it that could only be met by a union of effort, and further decided that if such a union of effort did not exist, state by state, throughout the South, then, without waiting for the slow process of gradual unification, a meeting must be held to declare that such a union did exist. The clear judgment of the men who started the movement is confirmed by the fact that in less than three years the words "Southern Commercial Congress" have become known throughout the nation, the influence of its effort for union have been felt throughout the South, and it is now recognized as a practical force for good, both here and abroad.

## The First Plans.

The discussions in Chattanooga were along such lines as these:

The Panama Canal will be finished in a few years.

It is an enterprise potent with influences upon the South.

It is bound to draw shipping Southward and to change the routes of travel.

The lure of it will bring Southward a trend of population, because by reason of the influences of the canal there will be many new enterprises developed in the South.

The canal, potent in its influences, has stirred the imagination of the men of the South to anticipate great benefits from it.

Nevertheless, only in rare instances is there evidence of commercial organizations and business men, particularly those of ports, preparing to realize on the canal and its influences.

The hindering cause is a lack of widespread, definite knowledge of the South's importance.

Seeking in our minds for the one unquestioned means of stirring the South, we found that the resources of the South, when considered individually and collectively, involved truths powerful enough to electrify

the mind of the man of the South with a new confidence and great enough to sweep out of the mind of the nation the accumulated errors of two or three generations whose knowledge of the South was either slight or generally inaccurate.

## Basis of Work.

The physical leadership upon which the work is to be based are these:

Coast-line and harbor indentations—The South, from Baltimore to Brownsville, exceeding the Pacific Coast by two miles to one and the North Atlantic by nearly four miles to one.

Navigable streams in and benefiting the South—there being 27,410 miles of navigable rivers in the United States. Of these, omitting the Ohio and the Missouri and the northern portions of the Mississippi, 18,000 miles are found in the South; or, including the Mississippi basin, the South possesses nearly 24,000 miles out of the total possessed by the United States.

Waterpower near great producing areas—the Southern Appalachians with their surrounding region of productivity, above ground and underground, being unique among the waterpower regions of the nation.

Rainfall in inches per year and distribution per month—the South exceeding all other portions of the United States in this particular, except the extreme Northwest around Puget Sound.

Soils and wet lands—the South possessing great stretches of typical soils; for instance, fifty million acres of truck lands; and also possessing by far the greatest portion of the wet lands of the United States. These represent the richest soils imaginable when excess moisture is removed.

Days of temperature favorable to plant growth—the greater portion of the South lying within a region of 210 days between frosts, in which particular it has the advantage of the rest of the nation, for these days of growing temperature are associated with rainfall and with great soil fertility.

Forests and forest possibilities—the South having for three years produced more lumber than all the other States together, and the climate of the South is peculiarly favorable to reforestation and to perpetual growth.

Minerals in their distribution near navigable streams and to the coast—thus becoming more valuable for transportation, for use, and for commerce than is true in relation to the other divisions of the United States.

## Scope of The Congress.

In other words, using material things, a movement was started to appeal not only to the pride of heritage, not only to the pride of possession, but also to the pride of achievement, latent in the South if this great array of resources once becomes impressed on the mind of men, for no civilization has arisen anywhere in the world over except through the utilization of some one or more of these basic resources. Therefore, beginning with purely material things, which, after all, are the bases of every sane human activity, the Southern Commercial Congress has reached up into the realms of ethics, patriotism, and of statesmanship. It has declared that upon these resources a greater civilization than has ever existed in the South must arise to benefit the nation. Furthermore, it has declared that if this greater civilization should arise largely through the vision and activities of those who are now strangers to the South, it should stand as an everlasting reproach to the men of the South, who, treading under foot opportunities unmatchable, saw in these opportunities no personal challenge to effort. It was also seen if the active campaign to stir the mind of the nation as a whole toward new assurance in the South were not first undertaken in the South itself, the natural lure of the resources would bring into that region a sweep of population whose use of resources would be superior to those left in charge of the South, but unwilling to exert transforming influences.

Consequently, while the Southern Commercial Congress sounds as if it were commercial, it might with truth be called the "Southern Ethical Congress," for it is a moral power, and it regards as its very best field of endeavor the mind of the boy and man of the South, so that by constant reiteration of the truths of the South it may arouse in the mind an affirmative impulse to control, use, and transform the resources of the South. Furthermore, but declaring the great truths of the South particularly relative to its unoccupied acres, the Southern Commercial Congress strives to broaden the thought of the South, so that it may desire the arrival of more men of good intent to share in its problems of development.

## Works in Many Fields.

The Southern Commercial Congress might with equal accuracy be called the "Southern Renationaliza-

tion Congress," for at the very outset, it took the broad view that through a greater South must arise a greater nation. Consequently, using the terms of commerce and the facts of resource constant emphasis has been laid upon the national significance of these resources and their development, for following the reuniting tendency of the Spanish-American war, and the decision to wed the Atlantic and the Pacific, there must come to the mind of the South a clearer view of its national importance and relationship.

The great meetings of the Southern Commercial Congress in Washington and elsewhere have always emphasized the contrast between conditions as they were and conditions as they are. But especially during the years 1911 to 1915 it will emphasize the contrast in conditions of fifty years ago and those of now.

The five great meetings in the years mentioned will represent five scenes in the great drama of the South's recovery. The stage is the South, the audience is the nation. The scene in Atlanta in March, 1911, carried out the idea of "The South's Physical Recovery," the scene in Nashville, in April, 1912, carried out the idea of "The South's Agricultural and Educational Recovery." The scene along the Gulf, or the Mobile convention in 1913, will carry out the idea of "The South's Commercial Recovery," using the completed Panama Canal as a means of defining the increasing importance of the Southern States as related to the commerce of the nation and of the world. The scene in trans-Mississippi territory in 1914 will express the idea of internal development, the rapid growth being regarded as a type of the growth that will be common in the whole South in the next quarter of a century. The scene in 1915 will be set in Washington or in Richmond, and will express all that is involved in the words "The Victories of Fifty Years of Peace."

Such a constructive move, so broad in all its purposes, has never been undertaken for any other portion of the United States, and, indeed, such a move is unnecessary for other portions of the United States.

## Headquarters in Washington.

The Congress was started in Washington, in December, 1908, and has remained active there ever since. Washington was chosen as headquarters in order that the efforts of the Congress might actually bring to pass a physical return of the South to the Nation's capitol, and in order that using the natural advantages of Washington for research, it might, in the campaign for the South, come into touch, by correspondence and through the Southern exhibit, with many minds from many places, and thus send to all portions of the nation the broader understanding of the South, which the nation needs in order to increase its strength. An additional reason for choosing Washington was that the most highly organized government of modern times is located there; yet, though so highly organized, it is faultily articulated, and the opportunity was seen for a movement on behalf of the South to come in touch with governmental activities, supply the necessary correlation, and then use the researches of the nation in terms of the South for the South's internal benefit and for its external influence upon the nation.

It is a fact that without money to start with, without any official guarantee of support by Southern States at any time, and without a numerous following in the first two years of its existence, this movement has, in a few years, begun to deliver to the nation a new message from the South.

The Southern Commercial Congress is doing aggressive work along many lines.

As the agent of the All South Conference, the Congress is leading in a campaign of co-operative advertising, whereby a guide book to be known as the "Lure of the Land," with an issue of five million, made in regulation size to fit into the railroad racks of the world, will divert a just proportion of the three hundred thousand tourists who cross the continent annually to come by way of the South. Under present conditions only twenty thousand take the Southern route.

## Exhibit Assumes Form.

The permanent southern exhibit is now assuming definite form as an interpretation of the resources of the South. This is possibly the greatest single achievement of the Congress. The exhibit contains fifty-five hundred square feet, and sixteen great columns dedicated to the state of its territory. The visitors who come to Washington from states of the union and all countries of the world.

David Lubin, the American delegate to the International Institute of Agriculture of Rome, Italy, presided over a conference at the fourth annual convention of the congress held in Nashville, which considered the question of the European systems of rural credits. Twenty-seven states were represented at the conference. As a result, the congress is now assembling a commission to go abroad to study the systems of agricultural finance, in order that some system may be recommended to solve the rural financial problem of the United States.

The congress is conducting a national campaign in advocacy of Fed-

# BURROUGHS GIVEN DIVORCE BY JURY

Jury Returns Verdict After Fifteen Minutes

Much Sympathy for Defendant on Account of Social Standing—Decision Was Unanimous.

Durham, July 13.—After being out less than fifteen minutes this afternoon the jury in the Burroughs divorce suit returned a verdict, granting the divorce to John S. Burroughs.

The verdict created little surprise, nor would it have created very much the other way. There was a good deal of sympathy for the woman here on account of the fact that she has been prominent in local society here and had many friends among the upper social set.

If local gossip is to be believed, had it not been for the fact that Mr. Burroughs wished to save the reputation of a number of prominent men and women of the city he could have had a much stronger case, a case in which the evidence would not have been altogether of a circumstantial nature. Not until all the evidence was taken did some of the people of this city breathe a sigh of relief, for they did not know just what turn the testimony would take and who it would involve.

One member of the jury said today that the whole twelve men would have rendered the verdict in favor of the divorce before any of the lawyers spoke or before the charge of the judge had they been called on to act at that time. The decision was unanimous and it seems that the admissions made by Mrs. Burroughs on the cross-examination of Mr. Bryant turned the tide in favor of the plaintiff. Mrs. Burroughs is still in the city, and seems to be taking the verdict of the court in a very matter of fact manner.

eral aid for vocational education. When the Page-Wilson bill, now pending, is enacted into law, one of the greatest problems of the country will be solved, in that provision will be made for the education of the masses to articulate with the problems of life.

A standing committee is co-operating with the headquarters of the congress in solving the plantation problem, in the effort to break up large plantations into small farms. Mr. L. C. Irvine, of Mobile, Alabama, is the chairman of this committee. He has associated with him the following gentlemen: Col. Harvie Jordan, Atlanta, Ga.; T. F. Peck, State Commissioner of Agriculture, Nashville, Tenn.; E. J. Watson, State Commissioner of Agriculture, Columbia, S. C.; George W. Deen, Waycross, Ga.

The Congress of the United States has been petitioned by the Southern Commercial Congress to make a complete survey of the swamp and overflowed lands of the United States, and a standing committee has been appointed by President Fletcher to simplify and standardize the drainage laws of the Southern States. The committee is as follows: Col. J. O. Wright, State Drainage Engineer, of Tallahassee, Fla., chairman; A. W. McKeand, Charleston, S. C.; Jos. Hyde Pratt, Chapel Hill, N. C.; Justin F. Denechaud, New Orleans, La.; Wm. W. Old, Jr., Norfolk, Va.; Walter Clark, Clarksdale, Miss.; A. H. Purdue, Nashville, Tenn.; A. A. Stiles, Austin, Texas; Chas. F. Barrett, Shawnee, Okla.; J. P. Matthews, Oakland, Tenn.

President Fletcher has appointed a committee of three from each of the sixteen states comprised in the territory of the Southern Commercial Congress with the view of recommending, where necessary, such changes in the tax laws of their respective states as they may deem to be the most helpful, and such will be as nearly as possible, uniform for all states represented. This committee will make a final report at the next session of the Southern Commercial Congress. Mr. W. D. Hart, of New Orleans, La., is the chairman of this committee.

In the field of publicity the congress is doing a national service in bringing the South to know itself and in having the South known. The press of the South and the great national press services have been and are most important factors in this work.

## WANTED!

Good reliable agent to sell my combination cotton stalk chopper, harrow and road cart—to travel over entire cotton belt. Will pay a commission of 6 per cent. on each machine. These machines can be put up for from \$15 to \$20—two and three row cutters. Name the territory—wish for further particulars address: DR. J. T. GRAVES, Wilson, N. C.